

New National Stage Application
PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

21. (New) A test card inside which sequential reactions and fluid transfer operations are performed under the effect of control means integrated into the card, said card comprising:

at least two sequential reaction lines arranged in parallel, each reaction line consisting of at least two fluid transfer systems arranged in series,

at least two valves per parallel reaction line, the valves making it possible to control fluid transfers in series within a channel between several levels (A, B, C, D), each corresponding to at least one processing,

each valve being made up of at least a means which can be deformed by an actuator et lead to direct or indirect closing of said channel, such as a flexible film covering all or part of the upper and/or lower part of the test card, and the configuration of control valves for transferring fluids between two adjacent levels (A towards B or B towards C or C towards D) being the same for all of the reaction lines.

22. (New) The card of claim 21, wherein each reaction line includes at least one initial compartment, one receiving compartment, a fluid-carrying channel linking the two compartments, the valve positioned on said fluid-carrying channel acting on said channel as a control means of the fluid flow generated by a transfer means,

and wherein the arrangement of the valves on the test card is such that the fluids are allowed to flow between the initial compartment and the receiving compartment at the same time in all the reaction lines.

23. (New) The test card of claim 22, wherein the valves are arranged along a substantially straight line with all the valves being equidistant.

24. (New) The test card of claim 23, wherein the substantially straight line is perpendicular to one side of the test card.

25. (New) The test card of claim 22, wherein at least one of the compartments is associated with at least one buffer supply, and the buffer supply is located on the opposite side of the test card in relation to the compartment with which it is associated.

26. (New) The test card of claim 21, wherein each compartment which contains at least one reagent which is to be brought into contact with the sample or an aliquot of the sample, contains a means of keeping a tablet (consisting of an agglomerate of the reagent[s]) in position, with said means at some distance from the bottom of said compartment.

New National Stage Application
PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

27. (New) The test card of claim 26, wherein at the center of all or part of compartments there are some, preferably three, small reinforcing stanchions, which make up holding means that form a substantially isosceles triangle.

28. (New) The test card of claim 27, wherein these stanchions define the limits of a tablet which contains particles and preferably magnetic particles.

29. (New) A device for implementing the test card of claim 21, which comprises at least one actuator per reaction line of card and in which all actuators are at a regular distance from one another, preferably with the actuators in the same ramp being equidistant, the device comprising means for moving the card forward in relation to the actuators, and/or comprising means for moving said actuators forward in relation to said card, and in which each actuator can be activated independently of the others.

30. (New) The device of claim 29, wherein the action of the actuators on the card is at a substantially perpendicular angle:
- in relation to the surface of said card where the actuators operate, and/or

New National Stage Application
PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

- in relation to the direction of movements of both the card and actuator.

31. (New) The device of claim 29, wherein all the actuators are mounted on a single ramp, and the ramp is substantially rectilinear, substantially perpendicular to the direction of movements of the actuators, and/or substantially perpendicular to the direction of movements of the card and/or of the device with respect to the card.

32. (New) A method for implementing the card of claim 21, comprising the following steps:

- generating a pressure differential inside said card with respect to the outside, and preferably a depression,
- introducing at least one sample to be tested into the card,
- sending each sample or aliquot of sample through for testing purposes, and
- withdrawing from or keeping in said card a part of each introduced sample.

33. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein the analysis includes the following steps:

- denaturation of DNA and/or RNA,

New National Stage Application
PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

PATENT

- immobilization of DNA and/or RNA molecules on magnetic beads,
- amplification of said DNA and/or RNA, and
- screening of each sample or aliquot of sample to check whether amplification has occurred.

34. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein the testing includes a preliminary extraction step corresponding to lysis of any cells contained in the sample.

35. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein the testing includes purification of the sample after extraction and before amplification.

36. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein the testing includes analysis of the nature of the transcripts by hybridization using a biochip following amplification.

37. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein the card is used in an inclined or a vertical position during testing.

38. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein the test card is displaced during the various different steps and/or operations in a sequential manner.

New National Stage Application
PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

PATENT

39. (New) The method of claim 38, wherein the card is displaced along two perpendicular axes in order to align the valves with the valve actuators.

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please replace the original abstract with the attached Substitute Abstract.